Hope experiences ups and downs during golf play

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MISHICOT — Although he was followed around the course by a gallery of more than 100 fans, and despite the fact that his every move was anticipated and watched closely, comedian Bob Hope proved that — at least on the golf course — he is quite similar to the "average Joe."

Hope, who is in the Lakeshore Area for a four-show charity benefity at Manitowoc's Capital Civic Centre, took time out from his rigorous schedule to play seven holes of golf at the brand new Fox Hills National Course here Saturday afternoon.

Hope played the new course quite the way many a golfer has played it since it opened in June. In other words, he had his good moments and his not-so-good moments.

Hope and 29 fellow golfers played the back nine at the new course.

Hope struggled on the his first hole, the 10th, slicing his drive to the right of the fairway, and his second shot failed to clear one the mounds to the right of the green.

Hope hit a fine third shot that landed just to the right of the green, and his attempt at a chip popped straight up in the air.

"Mulligan," said Hope, as he pulled out a second ball.

Hope's second chip landed within 10 feet of the cup, and he three putted from there to finish with a seven.

"He's a lousy putter," explained Mark Anthony, his business manager, who rode the course with him and served as his caddy.

Each of the 29 golfers who played with Hope were given a chance at winning $25,000 by sinking a hole-in-one on the par-3 11th hole. After 25 of the golfers had tried and failed to sink their tee-shot, Hope asked if he could take a practice shot.

His "practice" shot sailed straight for the green and landed less than five feet from the whole.

"He almost won the $25,000 himself," marvelled Anthony. "That was quite a shot."

Hope followed his fine tee-shot with a four-foot putt for a birdie.

"That's the first one (birdie) he's had in a long time," said Anthony.

Hope was also very pleased with his impressive play on the 11th.

"That's it for me," he said. "I'm going back to the hotel."

After his birdie, Hope struggled on the next few holes.

On the 12th, his short chip shot sailed way to the left of the pin, and he went on to shoot another seven.

"I've made a decision," said Hope. "I'm not going to turn pro."

On the 13th hole, Bill Sauey hit a putt that sailed wide of the cup.

"You've been watching me too much," said Hope to Sauey, whose company, Columbia ParCar, made the "Hope for Health" cart that Hope used to tour the Fox Hills course.

Hope shared a laugh with Dick Moore on the 14th hole, after Hope's putt came up 10 feet short of the cup and Moore's putt sailed 10 feet past it. Moore will be playing with Hope in Palm Springs next February after winning the top prize in the Players' Auction preceding the golfing event.

Hope played the 15th hole with Fox Hills pro Bill Boockmeier and Pat Casey, who had served as an announcer during the first five holes.

Casey teed off three times before being satisfied with his drive.

"One out of three ain't bad for a guy out of work," laughed Casey.

Hope himself teed off four times on the 15th hole.

When it came Boockmeier's turn to tee off, Hope asked him to prove his credentials as a pro.

"Which mound are you going over?" he asked, pointing to the group of mounds that block the 15th fairway.

Hope later hooked a ball into the water on the 15th, and complained about his lie after dropping a new ball.

"Tee it up," yelled someone from the gallery.

"Not now," yelled Hope. "There's too many people watching."

Hope nearly finished the day in fine fashion, but his putt for par on the 16th hole rolled around the cup and came out.

All in all, it was an enjoyable day — for Hope, for his fellow golfers, and for the hundreds of people who came out to watch and hear from the king of comedy.

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Dick Moore won the grand prize in the Players Auction that preceded the golf outing Saturday.

Although he won the top prize — a trip to California to play golf with Bob and Dolores Hope in February — it cost him $1200. Moore paid the $1200 to replace John Koss in the finals, and his name was the final one in the hat when the drawing ended.

Moore will travel to Palm Springs to play at Morningside Country Club, a Jack Nicklaus-designed course. His foursome will consist of Hope, Casey and Ralph "Cyclone" McClone, who paid $2,015 to win the top prize in Thursday's auction.

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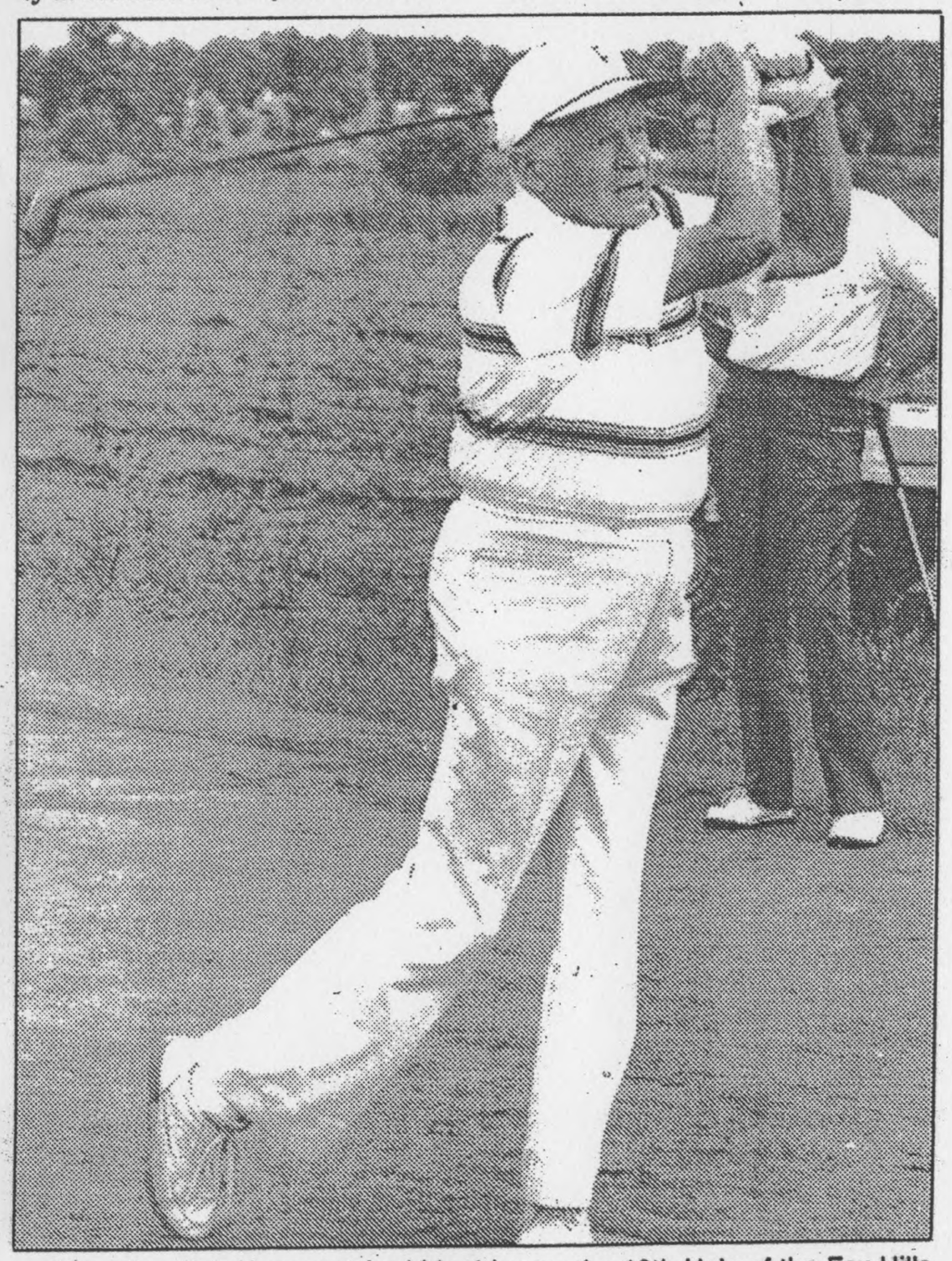
According to Mark Anthony, Hope's business manager, both Bob and Dolores have enjoyed their stay in the Lakeshore Area. Anthony noted that the couple was puzzled by a remark found in Thursday's *Herald Times Reporter*.

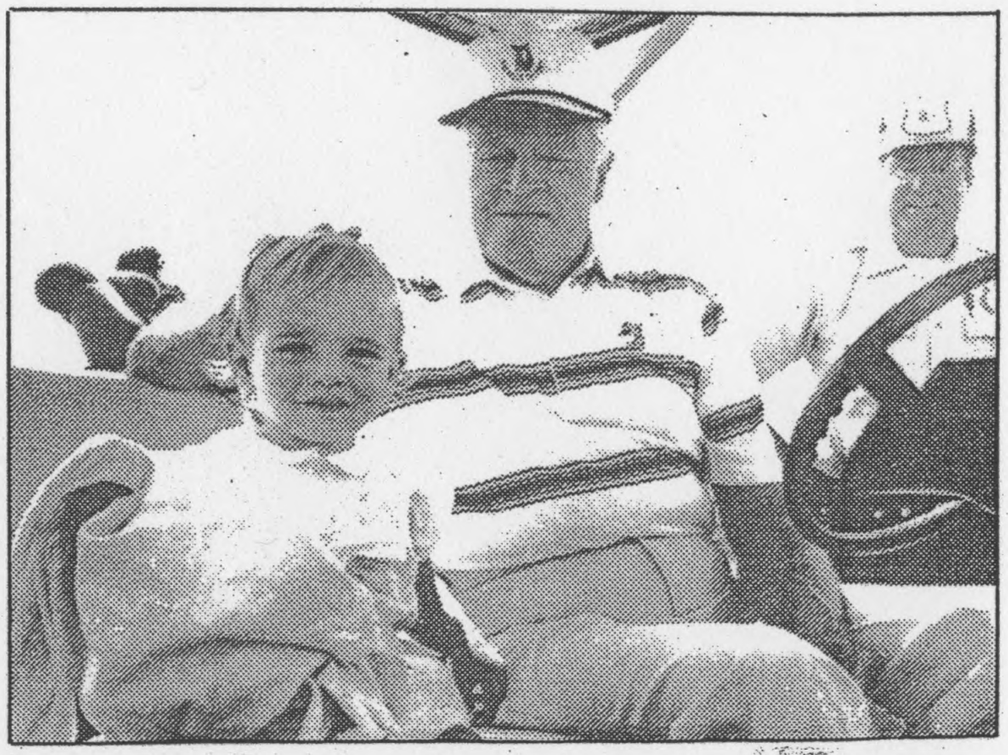
"They got a kick out of that 'aging siren' line," said Anthony, referring to *HTR* reporter Don Scherrer's column, in which Scherrer referred to Mrs. Hope as "an aging siren."

"Dolores said that she's going to have to go out and buy a slinky black dress," laughed Anthony.



Comedian Bob Hope watched his drive on the 10th Hole of the Fox Hills National Course in Mishicot Saturday afternoon. Hope was on the course for the final day of his stay in the Lakeshore Area. Later Saturday night, Hope gave a finale performance at the Capitol Civic Centre in Manitowoc.

Herald Times Reporter photo by Ron Hoerth



Bob Hope took a moment during Saturday's golf outing at Fox Hills to greet 1-½-year-old Heather Gibson of Appleton. Heather's parents, George and Cheryl, had a difficult time prying their daughter away once she had her seat next to Hope.

Herald Times Reporter photo by Ron Hoerth